

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 8-14 have been withdrawn. By this Amendment, the title and claim 1 have been amended.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 3, 4 and 6 contain patentable subject matter.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the April 7 personal interview. The subject matter of the discussions held are incorporated into the amendments and the following remarks and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,045,594 to Maddocks. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action recognizes that AAPA does not teach that forming a first mask covering region corresponds to portions of the conduction electrodes, having apertures and removing the first insulating films deposited on the surface of the mask. However, claim 1 recites forming a first mask covering regions corresponding to portions of the conduction electrodes 46 and having apertures R30 in the conduction electrode forming regions excluding the portions and in the exciting electrode forming regions. Claim 1, lines 15 and 16 where it states "except portions ranging from the upper side of the piezoelectric resonator piece to the lower side through the sides." Thus, apertures R30 does not appear in this portion. See, e.g., Fig. 6B.

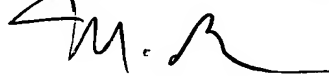
Maddocks discloses at Fig. 3C apertures 34' and 40 located in the region of the conductors 37 and 38. However, Maddocks does not disclose forming a first mask covering a region corresponding to portions of the conduction electrodes including the portions ranging from the upper side of the piezoelectric resonator to the lower side through the sides as in claim 1. Furthermore, AAPA does not disclose this feature.

Finally, neither Maddocks nor AAPA disclose portions including the under metal layer and the noble metal layer, as disclosed in Fig. 6A-E. Instead, AAPA at Fig. 13C discloses that the noble metal layer has been removed from the "portions".

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 8, 2005

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